

# **NEL/CPS CONSTRUCTION CAREER ACADEMY BOARD MEETING**

**March 23, 2011**

**NEL/CPS CONSTRUCTION & CAREER ACADEMY**

**CONFERENCE ROOM- 4 SHARPE DRIVE, CRANSTON, RI 02920**

**12:00 P.M. Executive Session**

**Public Session Immediately Following**

## **MINUTES**

The following members were present: Mr. Traficante, Mr. Nero, Mrs. McFarland (arrived at 12:45 p.m.), Mr. Sabitoni, Mr. Bowling and Dr. Leone. Others present were: Dr. Silvia, Mr. Votto, Mr. Scaffardi, Mrs. Dzekevich, and Mrs. Corcelli.

Chairman Traficante called the meeting to order at 12:22 p.m. There was no executive session.

The roll was called; a quorum was present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) Approved – February 8, 2011. A motion was made by Mr. Bowling to approve the minutes of the February 8th meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. All were in favor.

**Public Acknowledgements/Communications**

There were none.

## **Public Hearing**

- a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items)**
- b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)**

**There were no speakers.**

## **Policy and Program**

### **Field Trips/Conferences of Long Duration**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3-1-11 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the following field trip of long duration be authorized:**

**Dr. Joel Gluck, teacher at the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy (total of 5 chaperones) and approximately 42 students to travel to Lake George New York from May 20 to May 22, 2011. This trip is at no cost to the Charter School.**

**Please note – this trip replaces the previous approved trip of:**

**Dr. Joel Gluck, teacher at the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy and approximately 50 students to travel to New York City and Fairfield & Jackson New Jersey from May 13, 2011 to May 15, 2011.**

**Moved by Dr. Leone, seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. Discussion.**

**Mr. Pecorelli explained the field trip and the reason for the change in**

location (original trip turned out to be too expensive). This trip will leave at 1 p.m. on a Friday afternoon and return Sunday evening. There is an educational component on the trip to compensate for leaving (slightly) on school time.

(Amended Agenda addition)

Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the following conference of long duration be authorized:

Gayle Dzekevich, Director of AEP, to travel to San Francisco, CA from April 17, 2011 through April 21, 2011 to attend the COABE (Commission of Adult Basic Education) Conference, at no cost to the Charter School. All expenses covered under WIA (Workforce Investment Act) grant.

Mrs. Dzekevich explained this conference to the board and how the grant pays for her attendance and how this fulfills her PDI requirements. (Handout #1).

All were in favor.

## **Committee Reports/Reports/Updates**

### **A. Executive Director's Report – (Handout #2)**

Mr. Pecorelli stated – we have twelve seniors who are in danger of not graduating. Registered letters have been sent to parents notifying

them that the student(s) are in jeopardy of failing and the consequences of that action. Hand-delivered letters were also given to the students followed by Administrative/student conference. The students will be closely monitored. Reports cards will be coming out in two weeks.

#### **Providence Rescue Mission – (Handout #3)**

See attached letter of thanks for the contribution of \$400.00 for an Eagle Scout project conducted by one of our students.

#### **Athletics Donation from NEL/CPS – (Handout #4)**

See attached letter of thanks from Michael Traficante, Athletic Director, Cranston Public Schools.

#### **Aspen X2 Training**

Mr. Pecorelli stated – I have attended two sessions. There will be additional sessions coming up in April where faculty will be involved as well.

#### **ESAC Conference**

Mr. Pecorelli stated – this conference (Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference) will be held from May 22 to May 24th. I will be attending along with Superintendent Nero, Mr. Traficante, Mr. Jay Sabitoni and Mr. Armand Sabitoni. The Charter Academy will be part of a workshop called “The Power of Apprenticeship through Secondary School Education.”

## **Flea Market**

**Mr. Pecorelli stated – this is the Charter Academy’s annual flea market fundraiser and is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2011. Donations are welcomed.**

## **Re-Authorization Update**

**Mr. Pecorelli stated – on March 9th we met with three members of the Transformation Office of RIDE. This meeting provided us the information needed to complete the application for renewal process (reauthorization). Additionally, RIDE will be having a site visit here the last week of April or the first week in May. NECAP scores were also discussed.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – at the April 14th meeting Mr. Scaffardi will orient the board as to documentation and process of the reauthorization.**

**Commissioner Gist visit – April 27, 2011 from 1 to 3 p.m.**

## **Discussion on NECAP Scores –**

**Dr. Leone asked if there was any backing off on the NECAP scores. Mr. Nero and Mr. Pecorelli were of the opinion that there is no backing off. Mr. Nero continued – RIDE stated loud and clear, their primary focus is NECAP testing. We have two high schools right now that are on warning because they missed one of fourteen targets, one, and**

they are both on warning. This is the agenda throughout the country – having adequate test scores and showing AYP. Graduation requirements in 2014 will include test scores.

#### **Roll-Out Meeting with Charter/AEP Parents Regarding Graduation Requirements –**

Mr. Pecorelli stated – we held this meeting with Charter and AEP parents regarding the PBGR's on February 16th. We explained all the graduation requirements to the parents and for those parents that were unable to attend we will follow up with phone calls.

#### **WorkForce Solutions**

Dr. Silvia stated – A summer program at this school will take place because of Rhode Island Youth Works 411. We received a grant for \$30,002.00 dollars to provide the following – 22 students will be selected to participate in the program. These are students that will benefit from World of Work classroom instruction with the skills necessary to obtain and maintain employment and conduct themselves in a work appropriate manner.

#### **Recruitment Video**

The Board members reviewed the recruitment video.

Mr. Pecorelli thanked the PR Department of The New England Laborers' for a job well-done.

Dr. Silvia stated – that this video will be used for recruitment. We will be developing a second video that will be presented to the

**Department of Education and parents. It will be an extension of this video.**

### **Recruitment**

**Dr. Silvia stated – recruitment is going as planned. We have made presentations at the middle schools. Based on the first presentation we have forty-eight students who are interested and we have students from out of district who are also interested.**

### **RI Foundation**

**Dr. Silvia stated – we just devised a plan to expand our academic program based on 13 hours a day. We acquired approximately \$78,000 dollars from the RI Foundation to create a diversified educational campus. Now we have a credit recovery program that is not only in the morning but also in the afternoon and evening due to its success. We went back to the RI Foundation to request one more year of funding so we could have some out of district kids come in and also utilize the program in doing that making the program self-sufficient the following year. As you may know, usually the RI Foundation does not fund non-profits more than one or two years and they let us know that when we walked in there but they are willing to take a good look at this program.**

**Champlin Foundation – we have been placed into two categories – technological equipment and also classroom equipment.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – we are also pursuing some bricks and mortar money to put the ventilation system in the construction lab.**

**Nellie Mae – Dr. Silvia stated we did not get Nellie Mae.**

**Mr. Nero stated – the regulations as of 2014 are requiring a fifth year of high school for those students who did not meet the standards.**

#### **Operating Budget (Handout #5)**

**Mrs. Corcelli read from her handout and explained all the expenditure and revenues to the board. Mr. Nero asked Mrs. Corcelli to email this report monthly to Mrs. Macera for distribution.**

#### **AEP Report (Handout #6)**

**Mrs. Dzekevich updated the board on the status of the programs at AEP.**

#### **Academics**

**Mr. Scaffardi stated – I think I would be remiss if I did not extend, a big thank you to Vinnie, Ray, the construction instructors, for helping us with our March 2nd demonstration project, particularly Jennifer DeGregorio, John Santangelo, and Marilyn Coppola. These people worked extremely hard. Also thank you to the board members who supported it.**

**Also, being a member of The League of Charter Schools we have had a great deal of trouble with RIDE giving us exact dates and exact information about reauthorization. It's like a moving target that keeps changing. On March 9th Brian Jones gave us a whole list of dates. Yesterday we received completely different ones. The entire process**



changed last night. It's disturbing because we were told that there would be a public hearing for the parents and the kids to speak in September. I specifically asked them if it would be during the school year. They assured us yes. Last night it came out that not only is the public hearing in July when no one will be around, the renewal application is due July 29th. The Commissioner's renewal is going to be in August and instead of the Board of Regents renewal being in December we are now told is going to be in September. So for us this is not good news that this is going to be rushed all summer long. It is tough for us because we were told March 1st we would get a renewal application, it didn't come. March 21st they said it would come and it didn't come. It came last night. We have 2 ½ weeks to respond to a very intense application which is non-NECAP. It's about our mission specific matrix; it's about what we do here, our entire academic program. In the rules and regs it states you need to prove your qualitative success, what you do for kids that is different. One thing I don't want to lose sight of is that as a Charter School we have two specific pathways here that make us different from other schools and our instructional methodology is different as well.

Mrs. McFarland asked if the board could get a sample of what the questions are so they could start working on them before the April meeting. Mr. Traficante stated they would send them out.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabitoni to accept this report, seconded by Mr. Bowling. All were in favor.

**There being no further business to come before the board a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sabitoni and seconded by Dr. Leone.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael A. Traficante**

**Chairperson**

**The next scheduled meeting is April 14, 2011 at 12 noon at the Charter School.**